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# Message Text

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64
ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AEC-11 AF-10 ARA-16

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NASA-04 NEA-10

NSAE-00 NSC-07 OIC-04 SPC-03 PA-04 PRS-01 RSC-01

SCI-06 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /207 W
---------- 075910
R 122318Z MAR 74
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3065
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO
USLO PEKING
AMCONGEN HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0839

DISTO

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, UN
SUBJECT: BIRTISH VIEWS ON WESTERN NUCLEAR PARTICIPATION
IN WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE (WDC)
AD HOC COMMITTEE

REF: STATE 042077

1. LOGAN OF UK MISSION CALLED ON MISOFF MARCH 11 TO CONVEY CURRENT BRITISH VIEWS ON ATTENDANCE AT SESSIONS OF WDC AD HOC COMMITTEE. THESE VIEWS TAKE INTO ACCOUNT US THINKING AS IT WAS RECENTLY EXPLAINED BY ACDA TO UK EMBASSY WASHINGTON, AND REPRESENT AN ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH US ARGUMENTS. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT UK POSITION IS NOT YET COMPLETLY FIRM, THAT UK HOPES TO PERSUADE BOTH US AND THE FRENCH TO ADOPT SAME APPROACH AND THAT
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A COMMON POSITION BY THE THREE WESTERN NUCLEARS WHATEVER IT

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MAY BE IS REGARDED BY BRITISH AS HIGHLY DESIRABLE IN ITSELF.
2. WHAT UK HAS IN MIND IS TO ATTEND AS A "PARTICIPATING OBSERVER" WITH THE INTENTION NOT TO TAKE PART IN THE DEBATE UNLESS A MOVE DEVELOPS TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR A WDC OR IN SOME OTHER WAY THE TERMS OF THE RESOLUTION CREATING THE COMMITTEE ARE VIOLATED. (SHOULD THINGS GET TOO FAR OFF THE TRACK LOGAN SUGGESTED WESTERN NUCLEARS COULD SIMPLY PACK UP THEIR MARBLES AND LEAVE.) THE UK CONTEMPLATES INSISTING ON BEING SEATED SEAPRATELY FROM THE 40 REGULAR (NON-NUCLEAR) MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE SOVIETS REQUEST A REGULAR SEAT AMONGST THE 40. THE IDEA WOULD BE TO ATTEND AT LEAST THE FIRST SESSION OR TWO TO SEE HOW THINGS GO, ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY WITH UNFAILING REGULARITY.
3. THE PRELIMINARY UK VIEW IS THAT ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETINGS WOULD BRING THE WESTERN NUCLEARS CREDIT WITH THE NON-ALIGNED WITHOUT ACTUALLY HASTENING THE DAY OF WDC, I.E. , WHAT HAVE WE GOT TO LOSE? BRITISH CONVERSATIONS WITH CHINESE REPS HERE LEAD THEM TO BELIEVE CHINA WOULD NOT OBJECT TO UK PARTICIPATION, AND THAT CHINA UNDERSTANDS NON-ALIGNED INTEREST IN A WDC IS SO GREAT THAT THE NUCLEAR POWERS (INCLUDING CHINA) MUST SHOW FLEXIBILITY ON THIS SUBJECT. CHINA IS
WELL AWARE, THE UK BELIEVES, THAT ITS TRADITIONAL POSITION ON THE WDC QUESTION IS THE MOST EXTREMIST OF ANY COUNTRY AND IT COULD IN NO WAY INTERPRET WESTERN ATTENDANCE A S ACQUIESCENCE IN THE ISOLATION OF CHINA OR AS AN EDGING TOWARD THE SOVIET POSITION, PARTICULARLY IF OUR VIEWS AND RATIONALE FOR ATTENDING ARE MADE CLEAR IN PRIVATE TALKS WITH THE CHINESE BEFORE THE FIRST SESSION. THE BRITISH FULLY SHARE OUR DESIRE NOT TO DO ANYTHING WHICH WOULD JEOPARDIZE FUTURE CHINESE INVOLVEMENT IN DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS BUT BELIEVE THAT THIS CAN BE AVOIDED BY CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WITH CHINESE ON DISARMAMENT OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE WDC AD HOC COMMITTEE.
4. BRITISH HERE THINK THERE MAY STILL BE SOME FLUIDITY IN THE FRENCH APPROACH TO ATTENDANCE, AND UNDERSTAND THE FRENCH MISSION IS BEING INSTRUCTED TO TAKE ANOTHER SOUNDING OF CHINESE PLANS. UK BELIEVES FRANCE DOES NOT WISH TO ATTEND AS THE ONLY WESTERN NUCLEAR.
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